

Application Serial No.: 10/664,764

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A salt of a basic-reacting amino acid with at least one acidic-reacting sweetener, wherein said amino acid and sweetener are present in a discrete, stoichiometric molecular ratio of either 1:1 or 1:2, with the proviso that said sweeteners may be the same or different when the molecular ratio is 1:2,

wherein the sweetener is selected from one or more of the following sweeteners: acesulfame, aspartame, alitame, cyclamate, glycyrrhizin, neotame, saccharin, gluconic acid and gluconate

and the salt is water soluble and further exhibits improved water solubility in comparison to the amino acid alone.

2. (Original) A salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amino acid is arginine, lysine, histidine, tryptophan or ornithine.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein said amino acid is dibasic and the sweetener is present in a stoichiometric molecular ratio of 1:2, and two different sweeteners are present in the molecule.

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A salt as claimed in claim 6, wherein the two different sweeteners are acesulfame and saccharin.

11. (New) A salt of a basic-reacting amino acid with at least one acidic-reacting protonated sweetener, wherein said amino acid and sweetener are present in a discrete, stoichiometric molecular ratio of either 1:1 or 1:2, with the proviso that said sweeteners may be the same or different when the molecular ratio is 1:2.

12. (New) A salt comprising arginine and at least one acidic-reacting sweetener, wherein said arginine and sweetener are present in a discrete, stoichiometric molecular ratio of either 1:1 or 1:2.